Amendments to the Specification:

On page 15, please replace the second paragraph starting on line 15 starting with " 2.7 Electrophoretic mobility shift ...." with the following amended paragraph:

2.7 Electrophoretic mobility shift assay

Electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA) with nuclear protein extracts and radiolabeled NF-κB and AP-1 probes were performed using a previously published protocol (Karpen et al., 1988; Banerjee et al., 1989; Pizzella and Banerjee, 1994) with certain modifications. Briefly, 5 μg of nuclear extract was used for each reaction with 0.2-0.3 ng of [γ-^{32}P]ATP labeled oligonucleotide probe containing either NF-κB sequence (Starcich et al., 1985) from HIV-1 LTR (5'-gatccGGGACTTTCCGCTGGGGACTTTCCG-3') (SEQ ID NO 1) or an AP-1 consensus sequence (Northrop et al., 1993) including the PMA responsive element indicated in bold (5'-gatccG**TGACTCA**GCGCG-3') (SEQ ID NO 2). For each DNA-protein binding reaction 3 μg of poly(dI-dC):poly(dI-dC) was used as a non-specific competitor and incubated with the nuclear extracts for 10 min prior to the addition of the radiolabeled probe. For supershift assays, antibodies against p65, p50, c-*Fos* or c-*Jun* (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA) were added to the respective binding reactions and incubated at room temperature for 1.5 h, prior to probing with [γ-^{32}P]ATP labeled oligonucleotide for an additional 25 min at room temperature. The bound complexes were separated on either a 5% or 6% acrylamide/bis (30:1 ratio) native gel as required and run at 200v for 3.5 h with 0.25X TBE (0.02 M Tris-borate, 0.5 mM EDTA) as running buffer at room temperature and then vacuum dried with heat at 80 °C and exposed to Kodak X-OMAT film (Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY). Specifically, the 5% gels were used for assays that included antibodies for optimal separation of the bound protein complexes, whereas, 6% gels were critical for resolving various specific and non-specific bands more precisely.

On page 27, please replace “step 63” with the following amended paragraph:

63 Incubating 5 μg of nuclear or cytoplasmic extract, for each reaction, with 0.2-0.3 ng of [γ-^{32}P]ATP labeled oligonucleotide probe containing either NF-κB sequence (5'-gatccGGGACTTTCCGCTGGGGACTTTCCG-3') (SEQ ID NO 1) or an AP-1 consensus sequence including the PMA responsive element indicated in bold (5'-gatccG**TGACTCA**GCGCG-3') (SEQ ID NO 2),